

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A case comprising:

a containing part operative to contain objects, said containing part comprising a front face, a rear face, at least two side faces and a bottom face which opposes an opening portion, and

a lid part provided on said opening portion of said containing part via a hinge part, said lid part operable to open and close said opening portion,

wherein a pair of engagable, interlocking portions are positioned closer to corners of said opening portion of the lid part and the containing part than to middle portions of said opening portion of said lid part and said containing part, and wherein said pair of interlocking portions includes a lid part projection engagable with a respective container part projection, and

wherein said lid part projection is formed on an inner surface of said lid part, such that said lid part projection projects towards an inside of said lid part,

wherein said lid part projection does not have an undercut,

the case further comprising locking portions provided in substantially middle portions of each of the side faces of the containing part and the lid part, or adjacent to corners at said rear face of said containing part.

2. (previously presented) The case as set forth in claim 1, wherein a distance of each of said interlocking portions from said front face of said case is less than or equal to one-fourth of a width of each side face in a horizontal direction.

Claims 3 and 4 (canceled).

5. (previously presented) The case as set forth in claim 1, wherein said projections have a rectangular shape in a cross section along a vertical axis thereof.

6. (currently amended) A case for storing at least one object, said case comprising:
a containing part operative to store said at least one object, said containing part comprising a front face, a rear face, at least two side faces and a bottom face which opposes an opening portion;

a lid part that is connected to said opening portion of said containing part via a hinge provided at an upper portion of the rear face; and

locking portions, each comprising a first projection on said containing part and a second projection on said lid part, said first projection being engaged with said second projection when said lid part is in a closed position,

wherein said locking portions are positioned closer to upper front corners of said containing part and lower front corners of said lid part than to middle portions of said containing part and said lid part, and

wherein said container part is stepped on upper sides of said front face and said side faces to form thin side parts, and said first projection of said locking portions is provided at a front corner portion of said thin side parts.

7. (previously presented) The case as set forth in claim 6, wherein said projections have a rectangular shape in a cross section along a vertical axis thereof.

Claim 8 (canceled).

9. (currently amended) The case of claim 8~~6~~, wherein upper edges of said thin side parts slope downward from said rear face of said case.

10. (currently amended) The case of claim 8~~6~~, wherein a height of said thin parts is one of constant and variable.

Claim 11 (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The case of claim 6, wherein said hinge comprises a first hinge part and a second hinge part, said first hinge part spaced along an upper edge of said rear face of said containing part and an upper rear edge of said lid part, and said second hinge part is not

spaced along at least one of said upper edge of said rear face of said containing part and said upper rear edge of said lid part.

13. (previously presented) The case of claim 6, wherein a width and a height of said first projection is at least substantially equal to a width and a height of said second projection.

14. (previously presented) The case of claim 6, wherein widths of at least one of said first projection and said second projection are at least substantially greater than heights of at least one of said first projection and said second projection, respectively.

15. (previously presented) A case for storing at least one object, said case comprising:
a containing part operative to store said at least one object, said containing part comprising a front face, a rear face, at least two side faces and a bottom face which opposes an opening portion;

a lid part that is connected to said opening portion of said containing part via a hinge provided at an upper portion of said rear face of the case; and

means for producing a locking force closer to upper front corners of said containing part and lower front corners of said lid part, than to middle portions of said containing part and said lid part, when said case is closed,

wherein said means for producing comprises locking portions, each comprising a first projection on said containing part and a second projection on said lid part, said first projection

being engaged with said second projection when said lid part is in a closed position, said locking portions being positioned closer to said upper front corners of said containing part and said lower front corners of said lid part than to said middle portions of said containing part and said lid part, and

wherein said second projection is formed on an inner surface of said lid part, such that said second projection projects towards an inside of said lid part.

Claim 16 (canceled).

17. (previously presented) The case as set forth in claim 15, wherein said projections have a rectangular shape in a cross section along a vertical axis thereof.

18. (previously presented) The case of claim 15, wherein a width and a height of said first projection is at least substantially equal to a width and a height of said second projection.

19. (previously presented) The case of claim 15, wherein widths of at least one of said first projection and said second projection are at least substantially greater than heights of at least one of said first projection and said second projection, respectively.

20. (previously presented) The case of claim 15, wherein said container part is stepped on upper sides of said front face and said side faces to form thin side parts, and said first projection of said locking portions is provided at a front corner portion of said thin side parts.

21. (previously presented) The case of claim 20, wherein upper edges of said thin side parts slope downward from said rear face of said case.

22. (original) The case of claim 20, wherein a height of said thin parts is one of constant and variable.

Claim 23 (canceled).

24. (previously presented) The case of claim 15, wherein said hinge comprises a first hinge part and a second hinge part, said first hinge part spaced along an upper edge of said rear face of said containing part and an upper rear edge of said lid part, and a second hinge part is not spaced along at least one of said upper edge of said rear face of said containing part and said upper rear edge of said lid part.

25. (previously presented) The case of claim 1, wherein widths of at least one of said lid part projection and said container part projection are at least substantially greater than heights of at least one of said lid part projection and said container part projection, respectively.